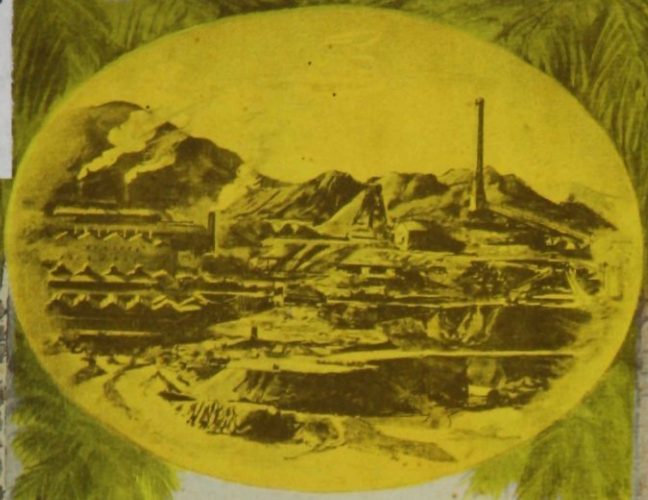
RAILWAY TOURS

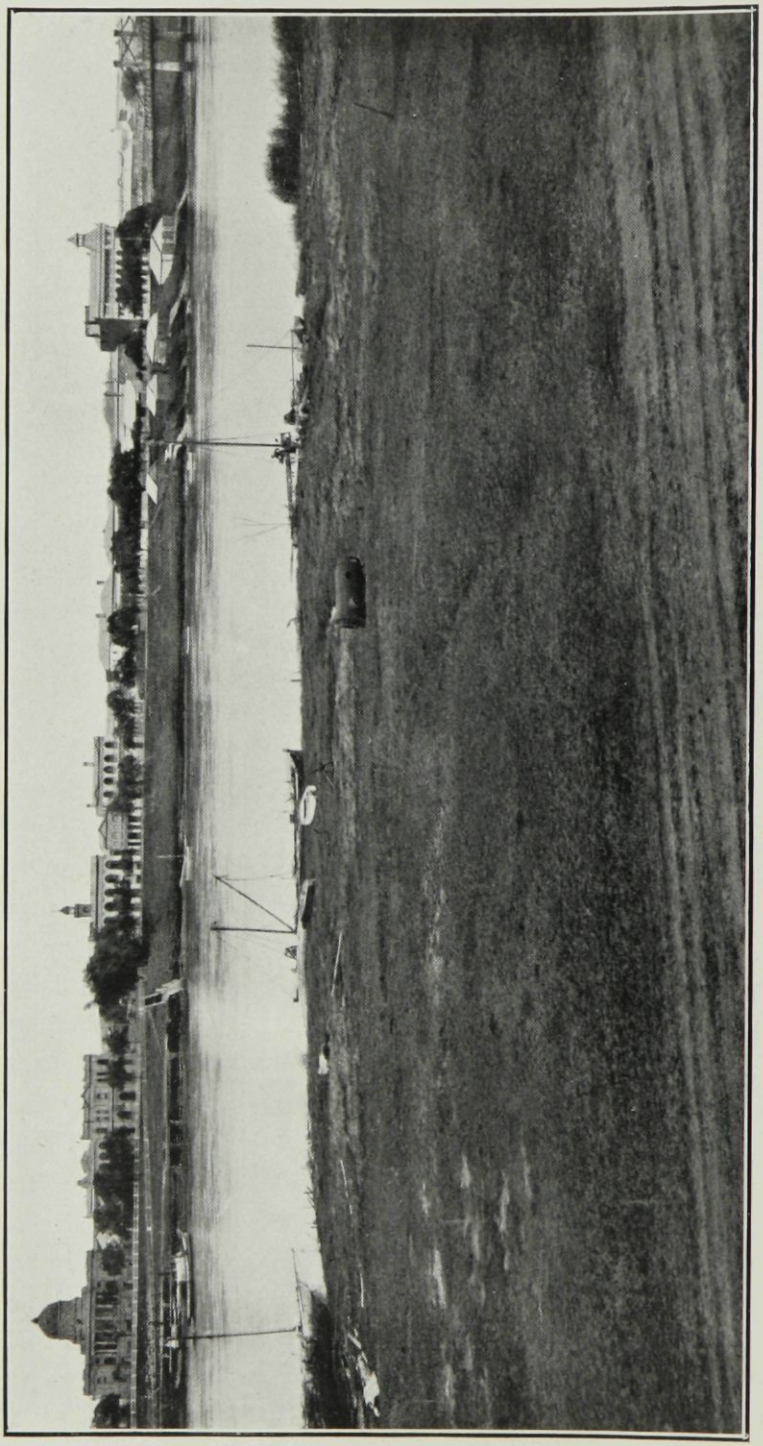
CENTRAL QUEENSLAND

P
919.435
RAI
C2



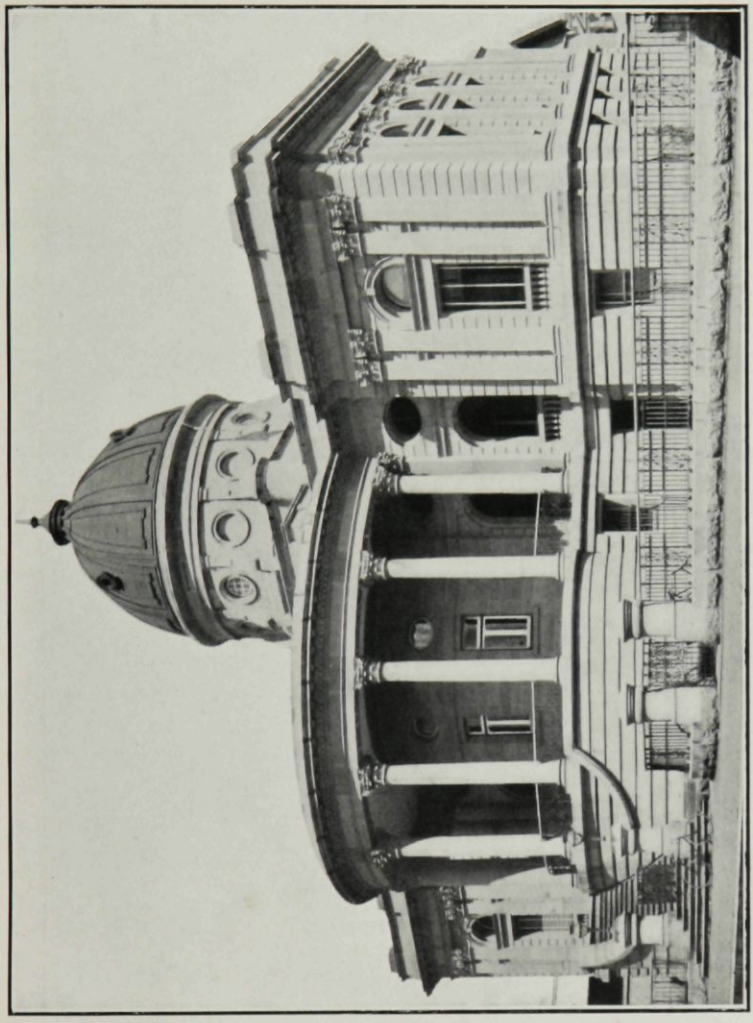


Railway Tours of Central Queensland



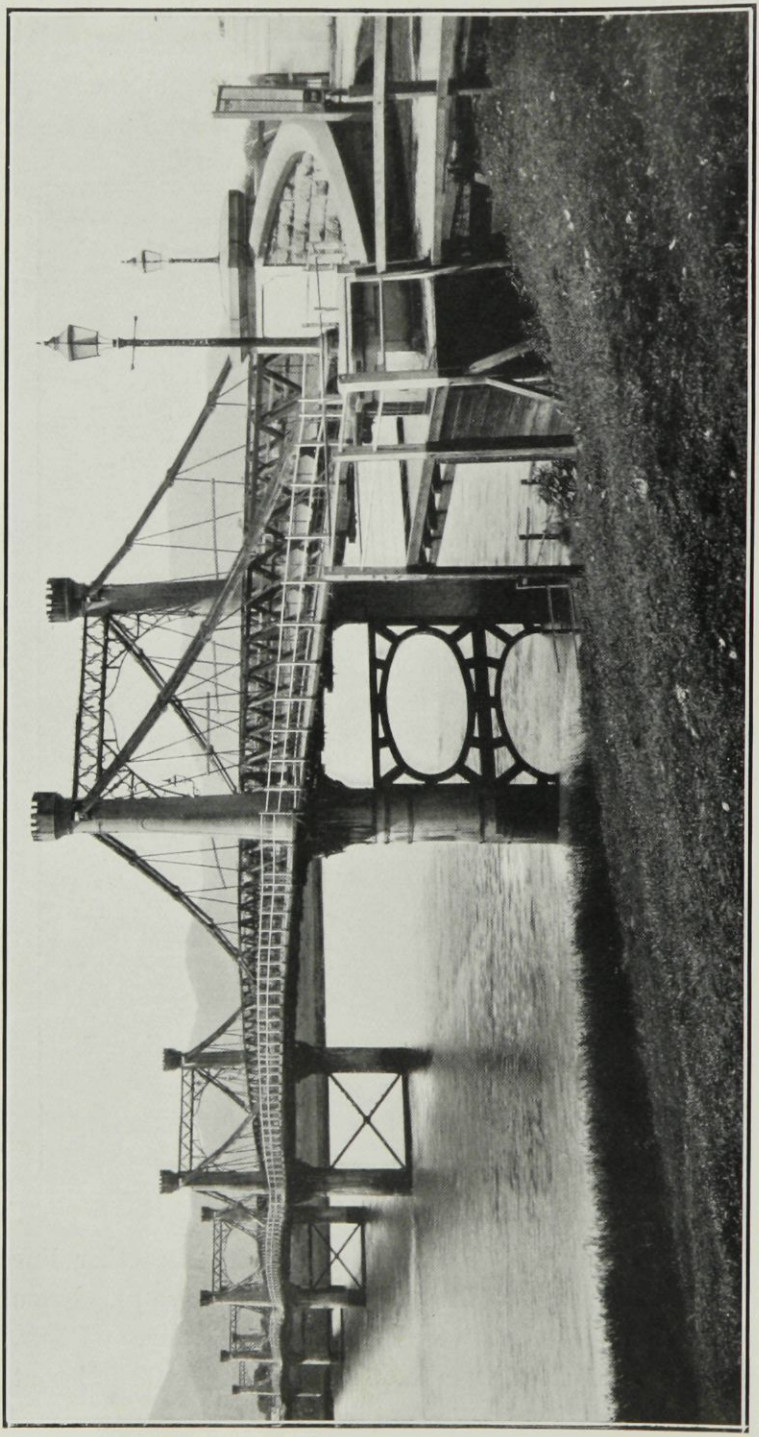
QUAY STREET, ROCKHAMPTON, FROM NORTH SIDE OF FITZROY RIVER.

further extended to tap the coal measures of the Dawson Valley, a portion to Rannes being open for traffic. At Emerald two lines of railway branch off from the main line, one going North through the rich lands of the Peak

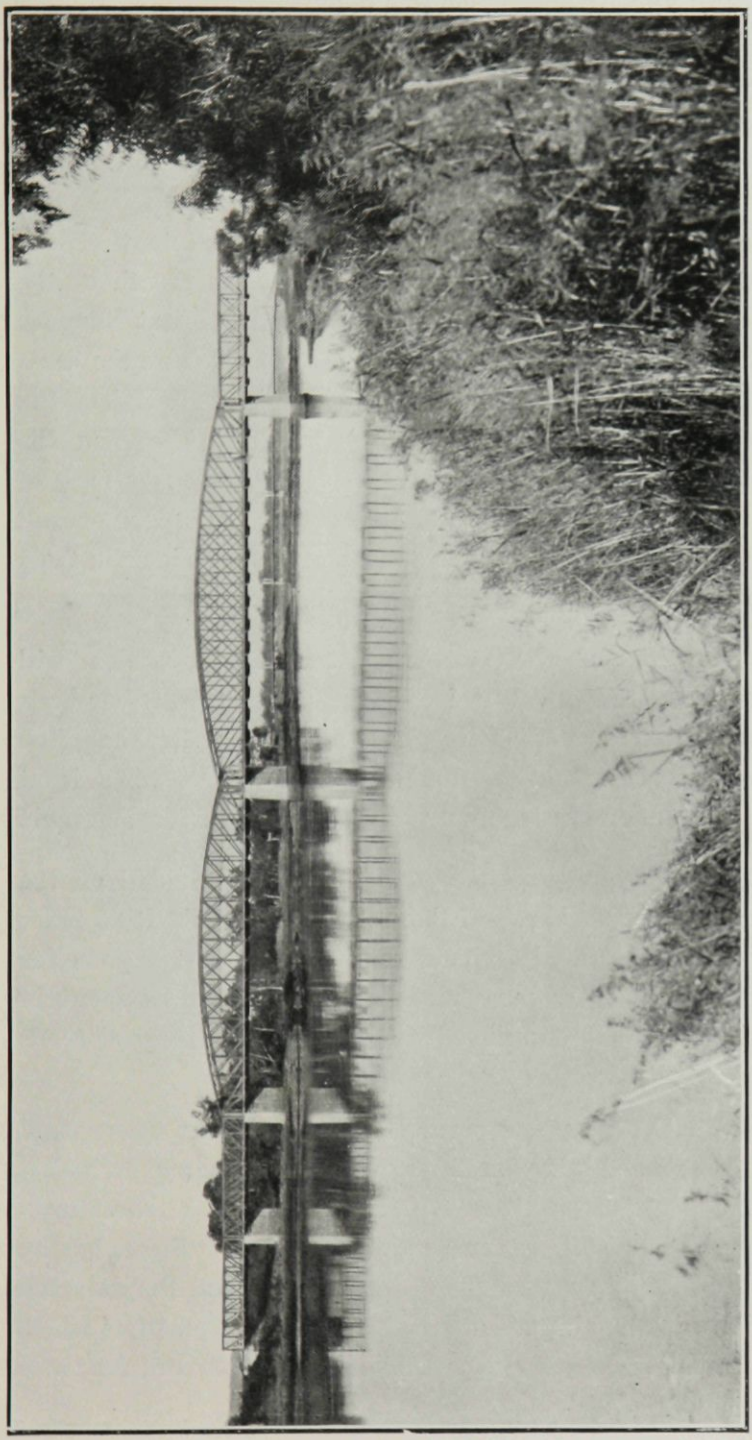


THE CUSTOMS HOUSE, ROCKHAMPTON.

Downs to Blair Athol, *viâ* Clermont, and the other line going South to the picturesque town of Springsure. From Jericho there is a line to Blackall, on the Barcoo River, thence to Emmet, with a further section of 32 miles at



FITZROY TRAFFIC BRIDGE, CONNECTING NORTH AND SOUTH ROCKHAMPTON.



ALEXANDRA RAILWAY BRIDGE OVER FITZROY RIVER AT ROCKHAMPTON.

present under construction to a point near Welford; further west from Jericho, Barcaldine and Longreach are reached. A tramline of 3 feet 6 inches gauge, constructed from Barcaldine to Aramac by the local shire councils, connects these towns. Eastward from Rockhampton there is a line to the sea-coast and the favourite watering place of Emu Park, with a branch from Nankin Junction to the deep water port of Broadmount, situated at the mouth of the Fitzroy River; and another line branching off at Sliepner Junction to Yeppoon, 20 miles in length, also on the coast to the north of Emu Park. A line runs from Bajool (22 miles south from Rockhampton) to Port Alma, on the southern bank of the Fitzroy, near its mouth. As most of the large coastal steamers make Port Alma a place of call, to load and discharge cargo and passengers, trains run from Rockhampton to suit the times of the arrival of boats.

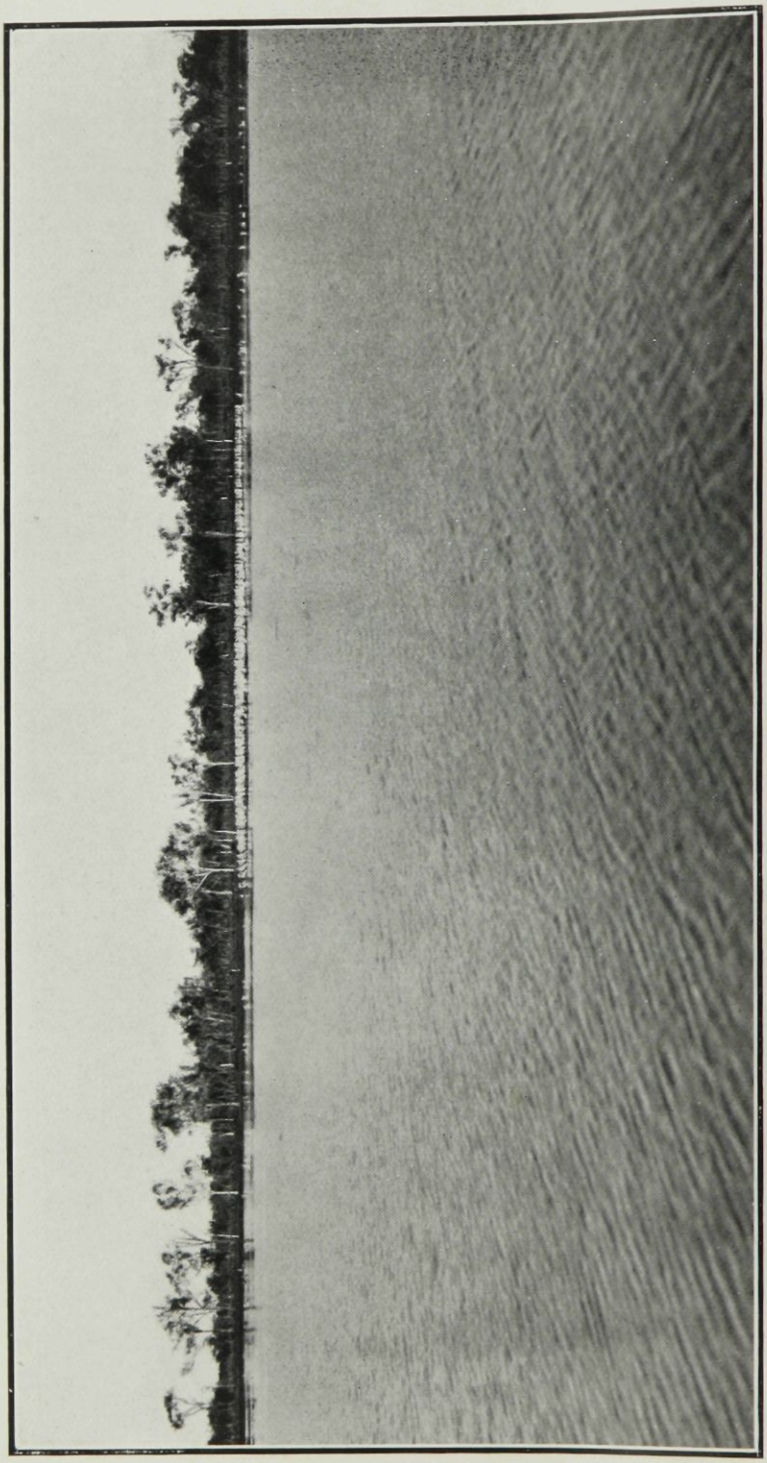
Portion of the North Coast Railway, which will eventually link up Cairns and Brisbane by rail, has been constructed for a distance of 45 miles from Rockhampton to Kunwarara, and a further section of 18 miles is at present under construction to the township of Marlborough.

The city of Rockhampton is prettily situated on the north and south banks of the Fitzroy River, about 25 miles from its mouth. Rockhampton has many attractions for the visitor, and a very pleasant holiday can be spent in visiting the surrounding districts to which are good roads for motor travelling, etc.

The Fitzroy, one of the largest rivers in Queensland (its watershed being larger than the area of Great Britain), is navigable for small craft for about 38 miles above Rockhampton, and differs from most rivers in the State, having no scrub on its banks. The land is good, and the dairying industry is making rapid strides on the rich pastures which lie along and back from the banks of the river for some considerable distance.



PALM ISLAND, ROCKHAMPTON.



PELICANS ON THE MERE AT GRACEMERE.

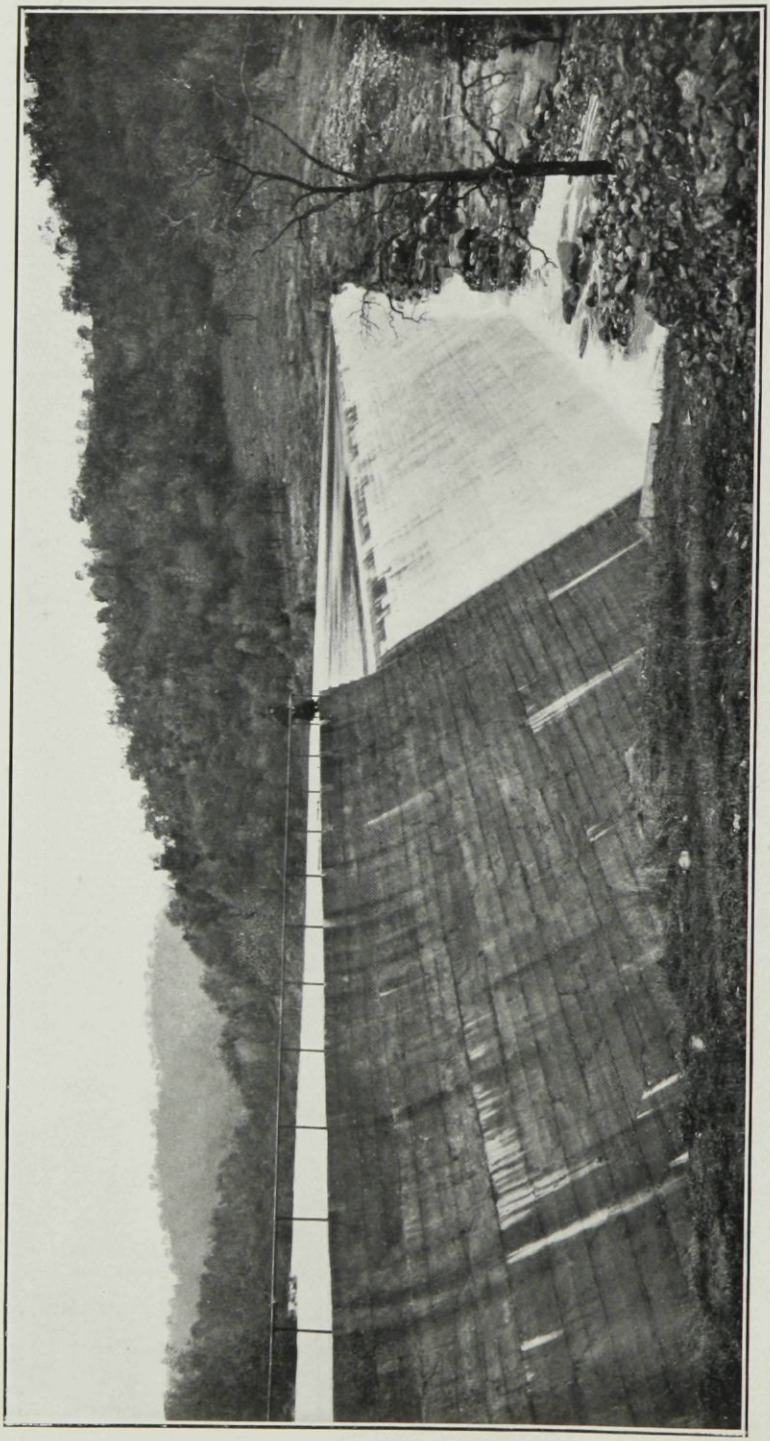
On the upper reaches of the river there is magnificent duck shooting, and in the open season good bags may be secured; there is also good fishing to be obtained, the kingly Barramundi being plentiful.



FAIRY BOWER, NEAR GRACEMERE.

On the banks of the Fitzroy are to be seen many specimens of the Leichhardt tree (*Sarcocephalus cordatus*), conspicuous by its brilliant green foliage.

The first settlers in the district were the brothers Archer, who named the Fitzroy River. They took up and



MOUNT MORGAN COMPANY'S DAM ON DEE RIVER.

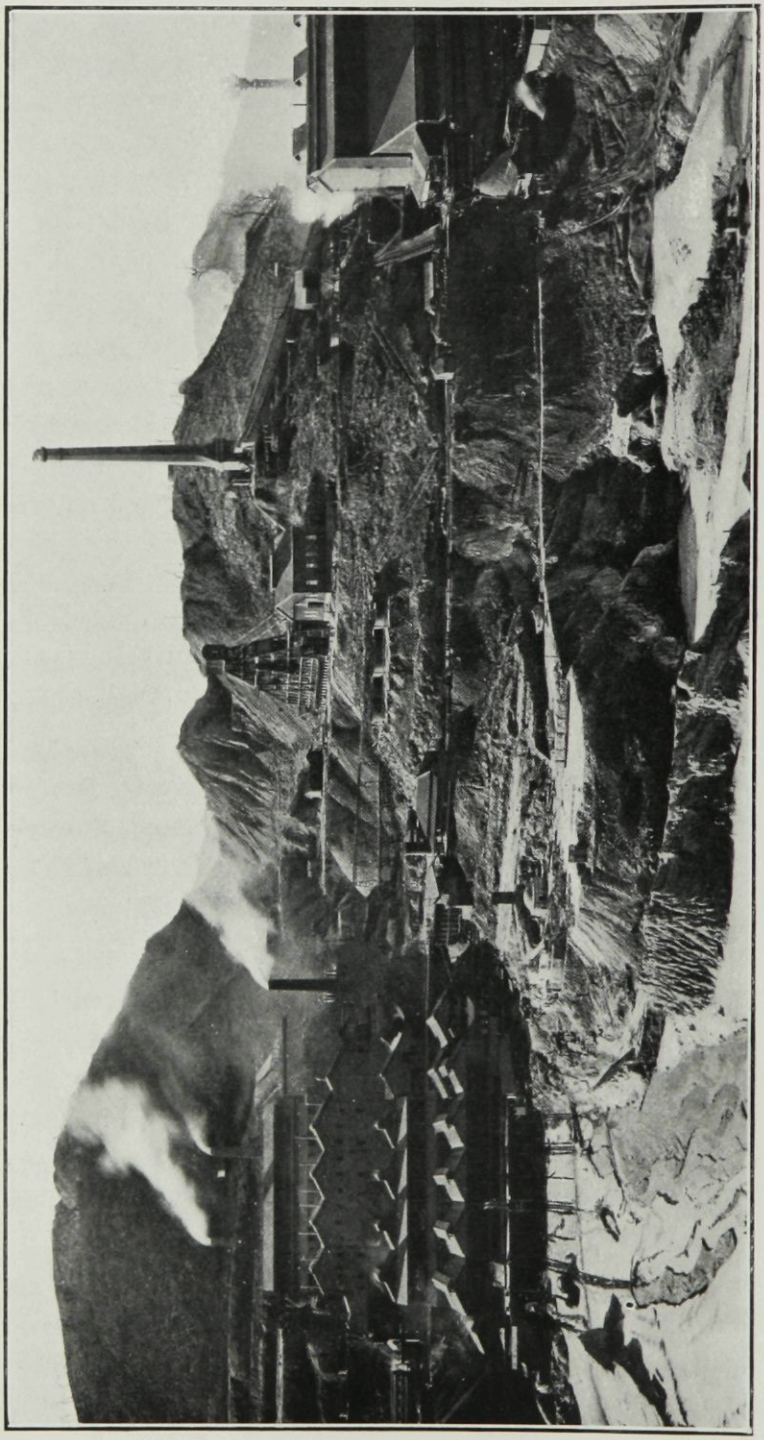
founded Gracemere, 7 miles from Rockhampton, as a sheep and cattle station. This magnificent property is still held by the Archer family, and the illustrations reproduced will give one an idea of the class of country. "Gracemere" is now used as a huge dairy farm, with all the modern appliances for its working, including large lucerne paddocks, creamery, butter factory, silo, and, in fact, everything that capital and enterprise can suggest.

Rockhampton received its first impetus from the reported discovery of gold at Canoona, on the upper reach of the Fitzroy River, in 1858. During the rush which ensued it is estimated that 30,000 people left their homes in the mad rush for wealth—wealth which existed only in imagination, as the field was only a patch of shallow sinking in an open valley, and was soon worked out; but many who came remained, and founded Rockhampton, the name being given by Mr. W. A. Wiseman, then Land Commissioner, and it is now one of the most important cities in Queensland.

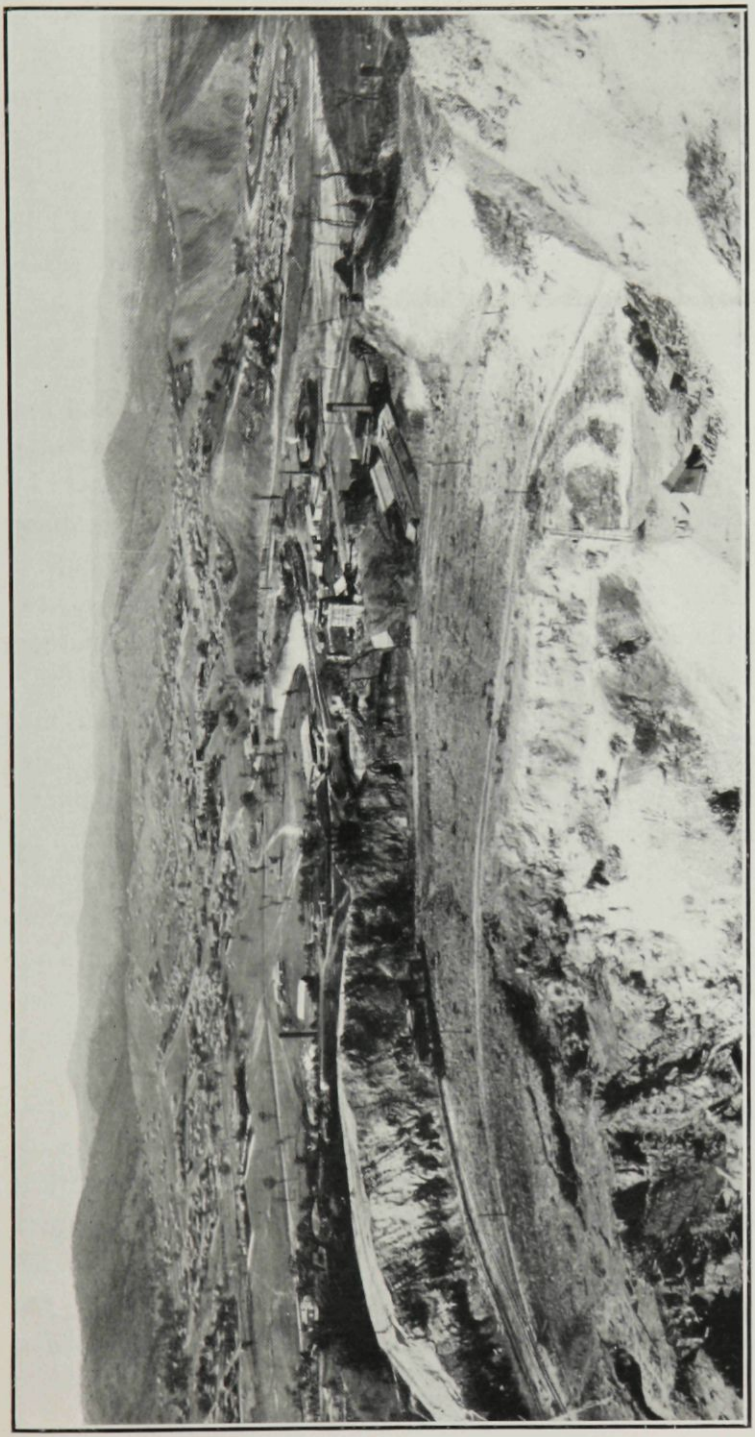
It primarily owes its prosperity to the rich pasture land to the westward. The Comet, Nogoa, Peak Downs, Barcoo, Springsure, Belyando, and Thompson are famous throughout Australia, immense flocks of sheep and herds of cattle being bred and fattened on the runs of these districts.

As a mineral producer the Central District is to the front; large deposits of gold, copper, coal, and iron have been discovered and are being developed. Its rich deposits of gems and precious stones are forcing their way into public favour. The frozen and preserved meat industry is carried on by the Queensland Meat Export and Agency Company, Limited, at Lake's Creek, on the northern bank of the Fitzroy River, 6 miles from Rockhampton.

Some of the public buildings in Rockhampton are very fine, notably the post office, customs house, court houses, banks, churches, school of arts, hospitals, grammar schools, &c.



MOUNT MORGAN MINE.



MOUNT MORGAN—GENERAL VIEW.

The Fitzroy River, which divides the two portions of the city, is spanned by two fine bridges—the "Fitzroy," 1,100 feet long, being the traffic bridge, is a suspension structure, and the "Alexandra," the railway bridge, a handsome steel structure.

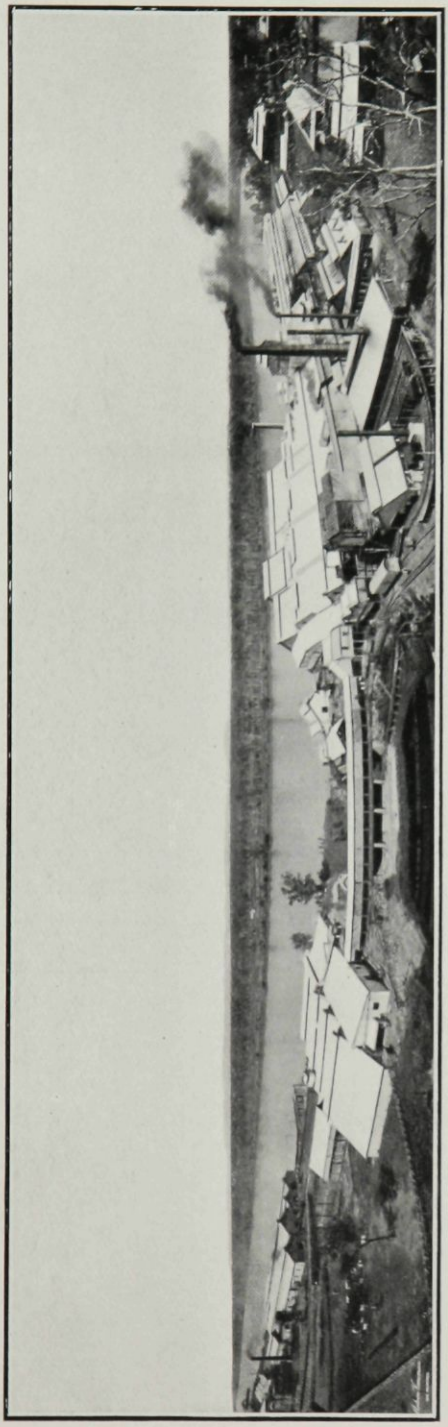
On the north side of the river there is a range of hills known as the "Berserkers," amid the spurs of which nestle many delightful homesteads and fruit plantations.

Mount Morgan

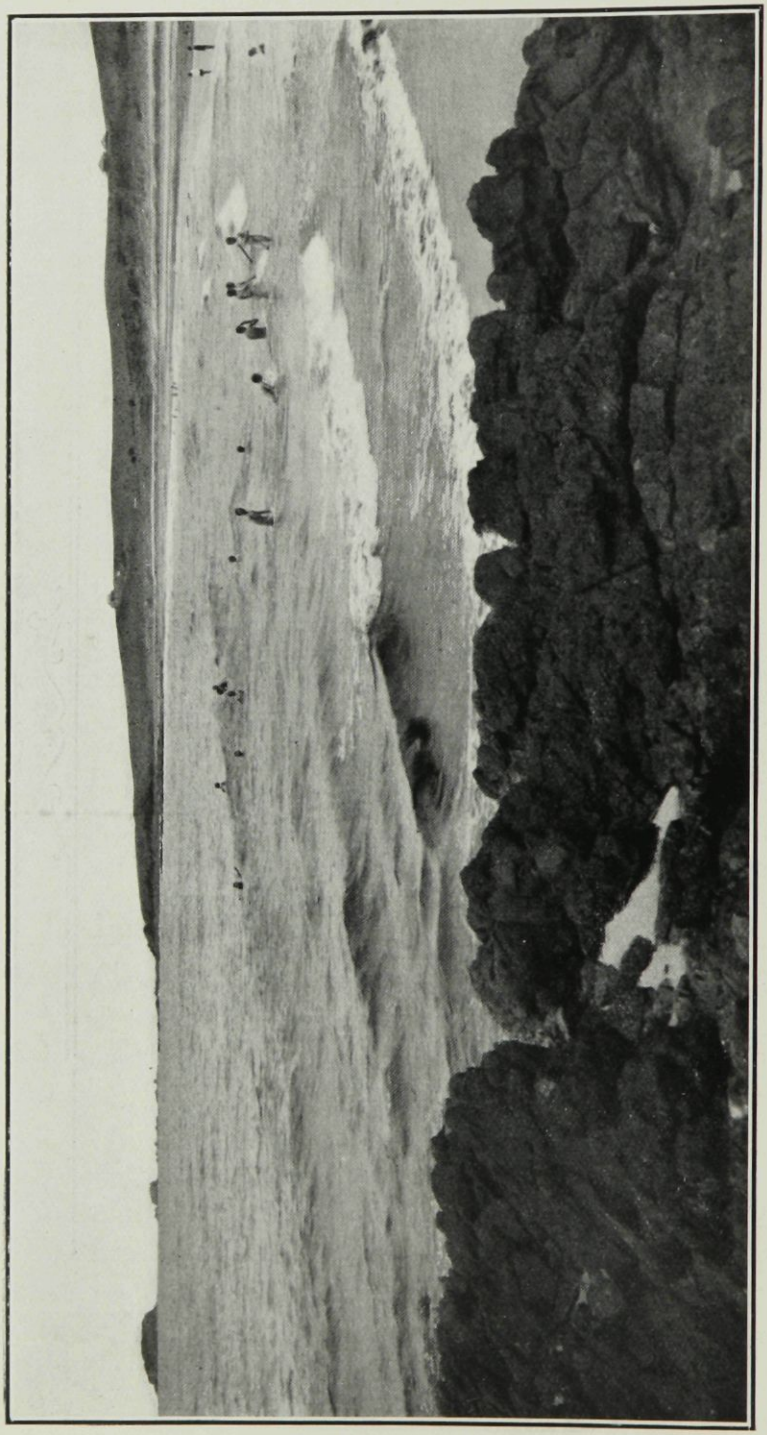
This world-famed mining town is situated on the Dee River, and is connected with Rockhampton by a railway line 24 miles in length. Gold was first discovered here by Edwin Morgan in July, 1882, who, with one of his brothers and an employee named Gordon, were out prospecting for a silver lode, which the latter alleged that he knew existed in the Dee Ranges on Calliungal run. The Morgans got assistance from Messrs. T. S. Hall, W. Hall, W. K. D'Arcy, and W. Pattison, ground was taken up, and a crushing plant erected. In this manner the enterprise was launched, making fortunes for the original owners. The company was not permitted to peacefully enjoy possession of its rich mine, and had to defend several jumping actions, which lasted from 1885 to 1888, but the decision of the Supreme Court was given in favour of the company, which has since held quiet possession. Mount Morgan, besides being a gold-mine, is also rich in copper, and the latter metal forms a considerable portion of the present output.

Fitzroy Meat Works, Lake's Creek

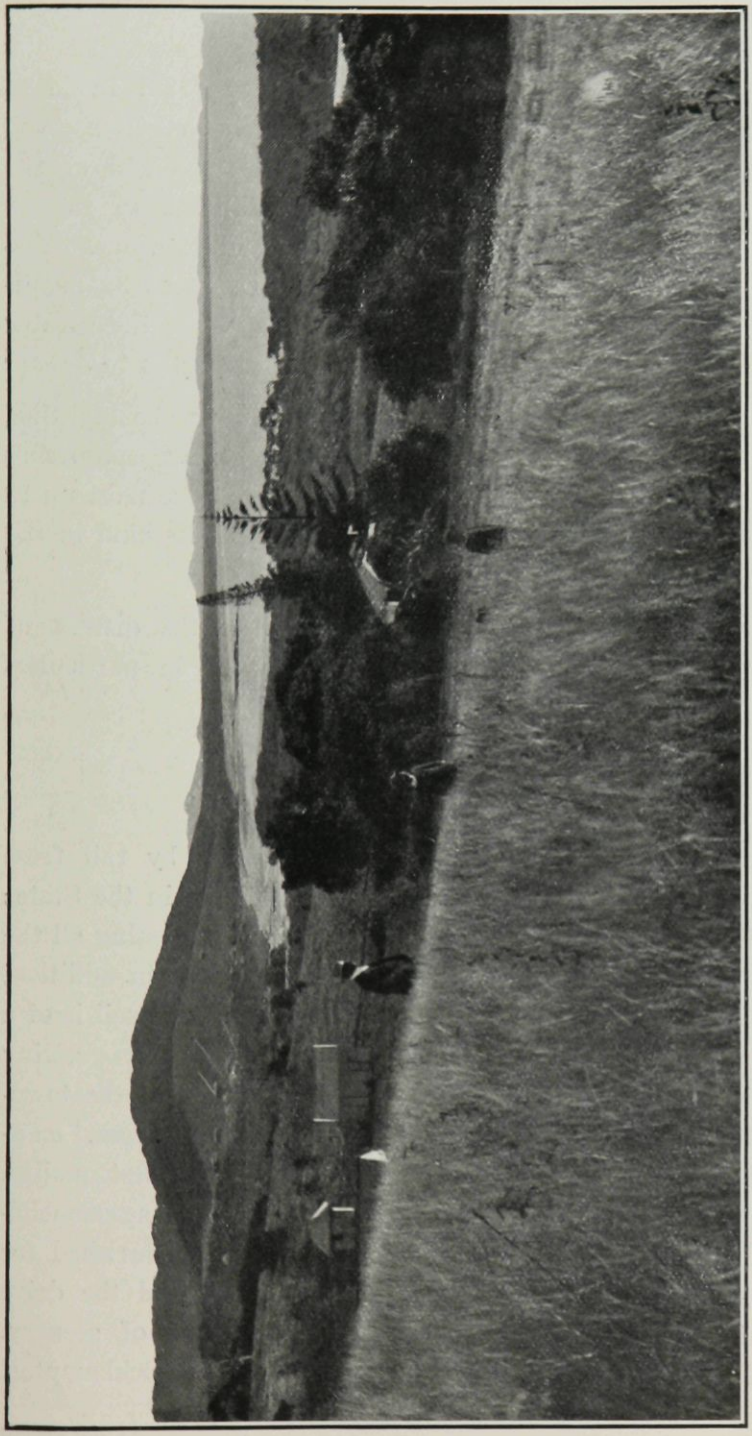
The meat manufacturing and export industry worked at Lake's Creek by the Central Queensland Meat Export Company, Limited, one of the largest of its kind in the Commonwealth, is situated on the north bank of the Fitzroy River, about 4 miles east of Rockhampton, and a visit here will be of great interest.



LAKE'S CREEK MEATWORKS.



EMU PARK BEACH, KEPPEL BAY.



DISTANT VIEW OF YEPPOON.

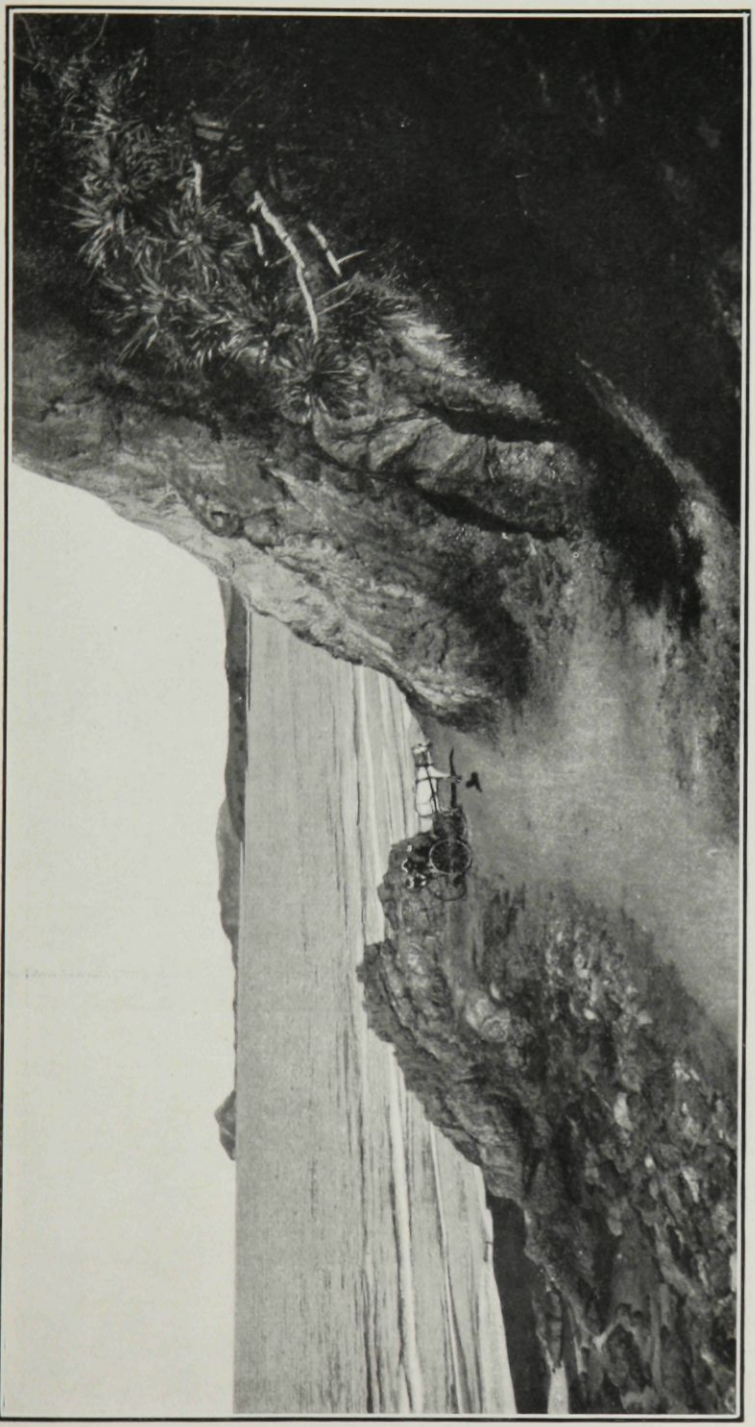
The principal market of the company for its frozen meats and tallow is the United Kingdom, whilst the canned meats, in addition to being exported in large quantities to England, are used extensively in Africa, Asia, and the Islands of the Indian Archipelago and of the South Pacific; whilst the quantity disposed of in the Commonwealth has attained imposing dimensions. The hides produced are made into boots and shoes by manufacturers having factories in Australia, while the greater proportion of the other by-products is exported to Japan.

The company manufactures its own boxes, tins, barrels, and casks, each of these departments comprising a factory in itself, the machinery being of the most up to date description and excelling anything of its kind in the Commonwealth.

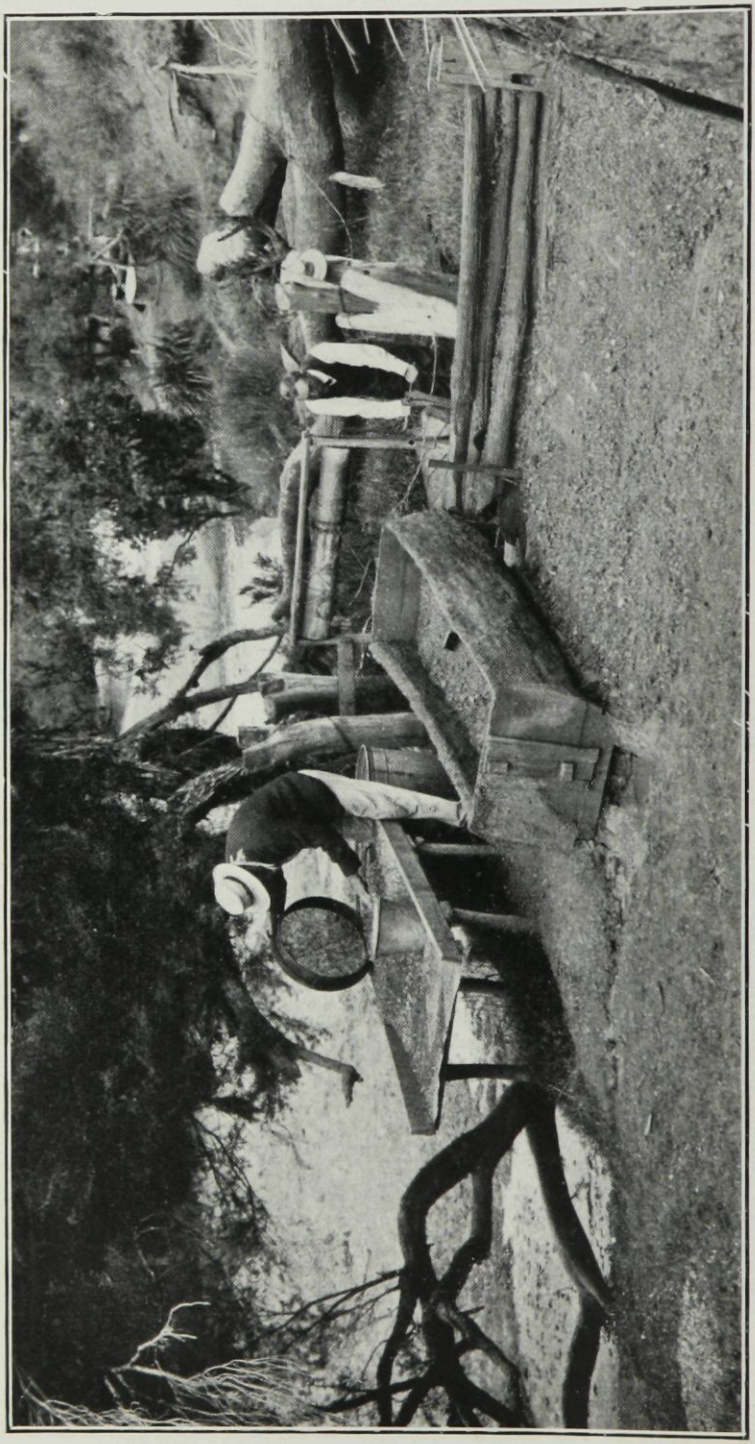
The importance of this industry to the district of Central Queensland, and to Rockhampton in particular, can hardly be correctly estimated.

Yeppoon

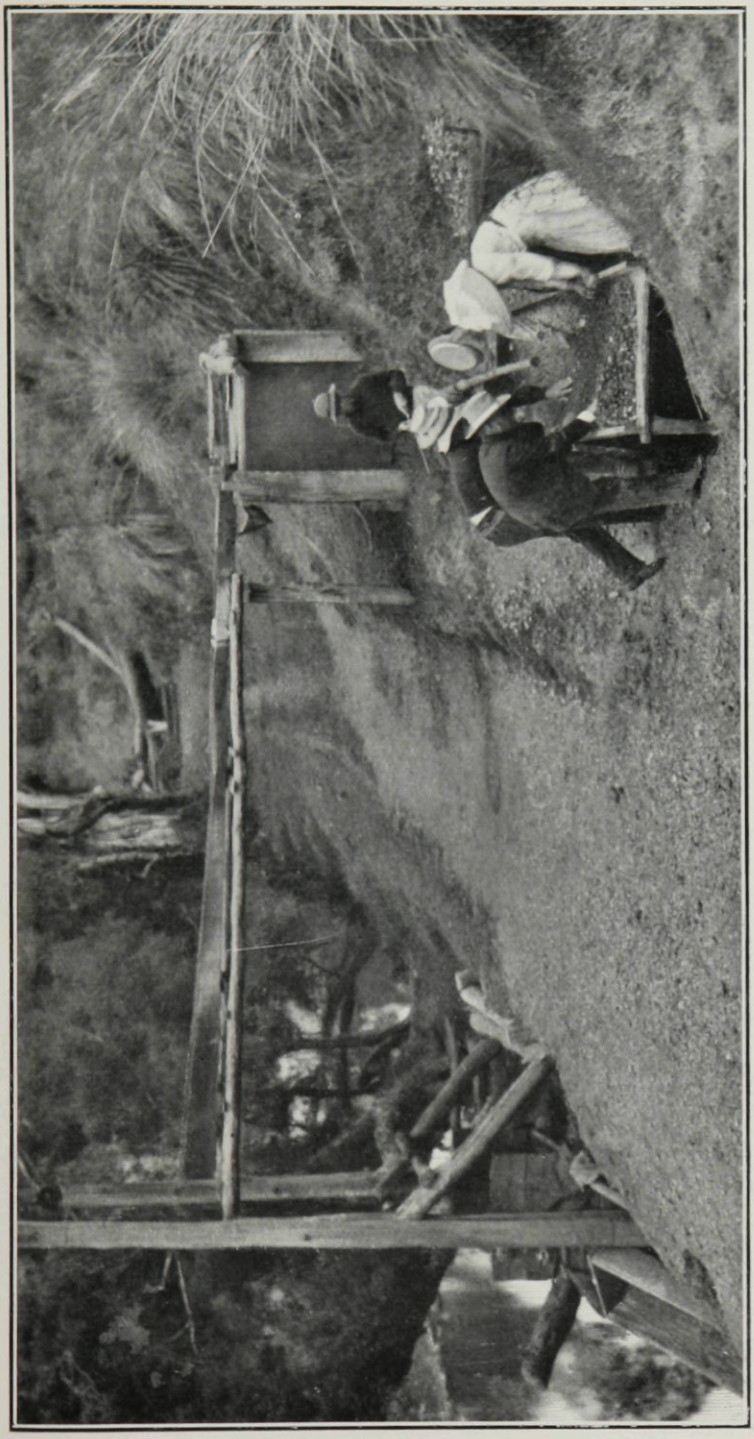
A favourite watering place, 35 miles by rail from Rockhampton; is one of the prettiest places in the State; situated at the north end of Keppel Bay, possessing all the attributes of a first-class seaside resort, and, in addition, some of the prettiest scenery on the coast. The soil is of a volcanic nature, and is admirably adapted for growing citrus fruits. Within easy walking distance of the township are numerous orchards, producing oranges, mandarins, lemons, and other fruits of the very finest quality. Visitors are served by several good hotels and accommodation houses. The old sugar plantation that flourished for some years is 3 miles from the township, and the drive along the coast presents many pretty bits of scenery. There is a daily railway service to and from Rockhampton.



PLANTATION ROAD, YEPPOON.



WASHING SAPPHIRES, ANAKIE.



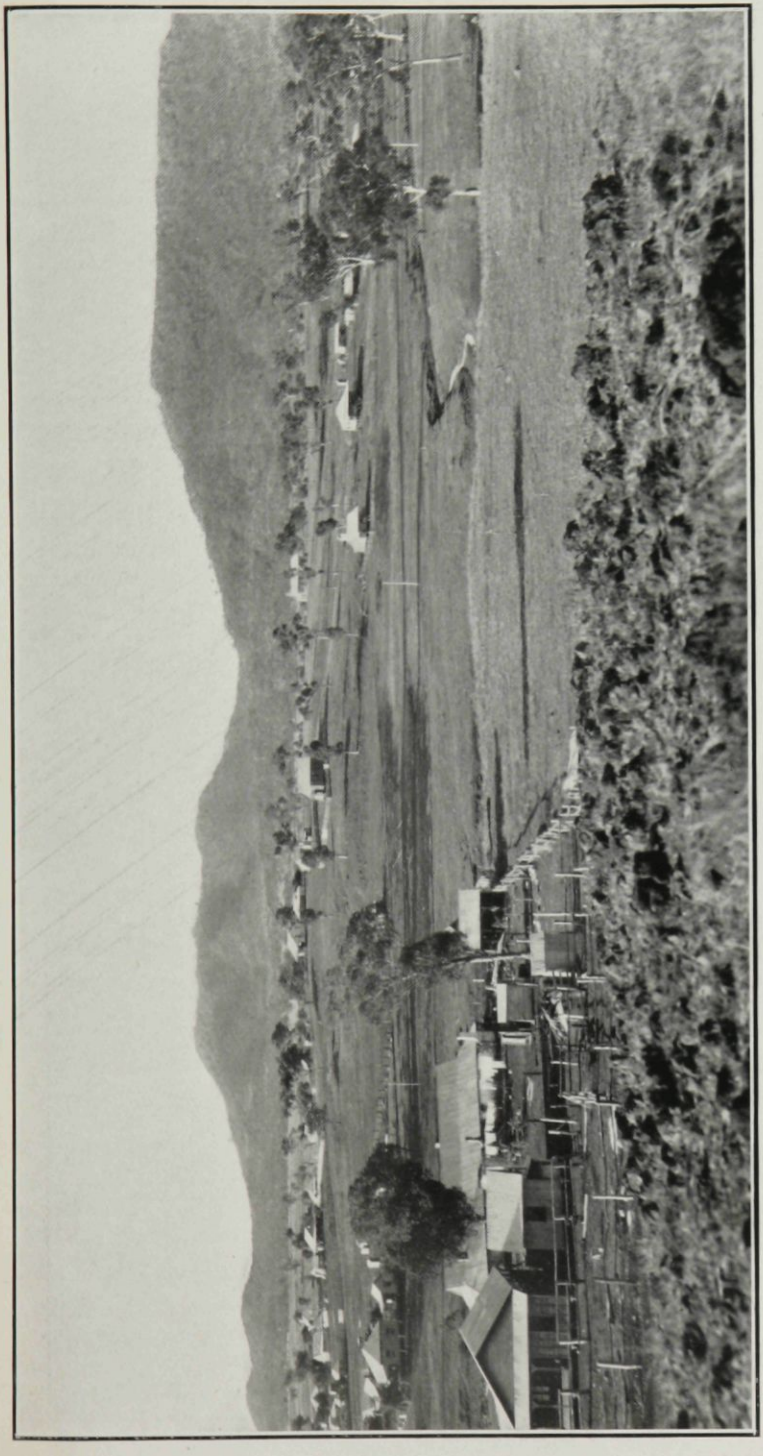
PICKING SAPPHIRES, ANAKIE.

Emu Park

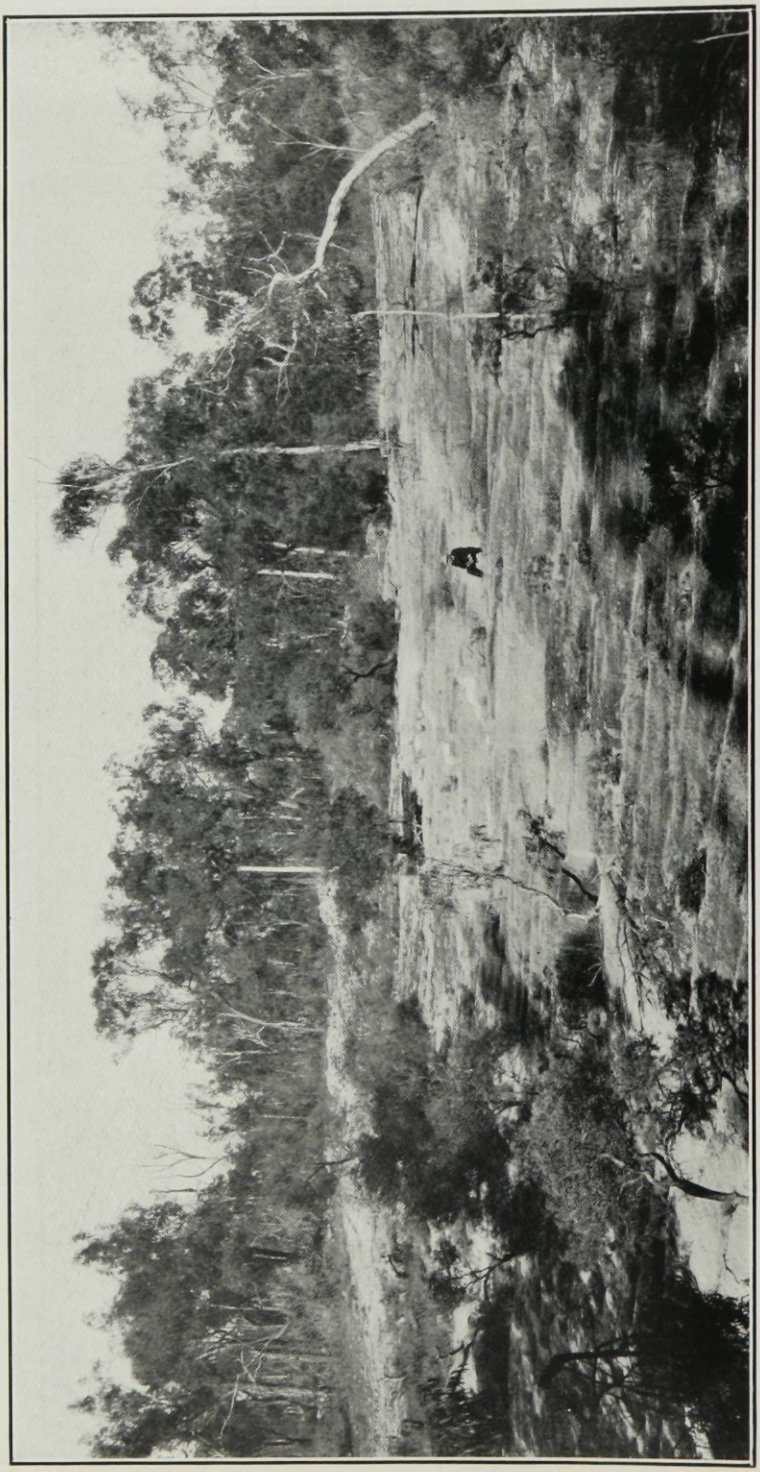
Another picturesque seaside resort is Emu Park, situated 32 miles from Rockhampton, on the shores of Keppel Bay, connected with the Central Railway system and having a daily train service. Here the visitor may enjoy a morning dip at any state of the tide, the beach being clean and gradually shelving, whilst breathing the uncontaminated air which blows from the open Pacific Ocean, towards which the outlook is charming. To the north-east are the bold outlines of the Keppel Islands, whilst to the south-east (20 miles away) Cape Keppel, the southern headland of Keppel Bay, may be seen, with numerous small islands in between.

Sapphire Town

This is situated on Retreat Creek, 13 miles from Anakie Railway Station. Precious stones were first discovered here by Mr. A. J. Richardson in 1873, but he did not work the field till 1890, when a plant was erected to treat the wash containing the gems. In 1892, the Government sent Mr. R. L. Jack, the Government Geologist, to report upon the field. The attention of lovers of gems was called to the beauty and value of Queensland gems by an exhibit at Earl's Court Exhibition, made by Messrs. Flavelle, Roberts, and Sankey, Limited, of Brisbane and Rockhampton, who have for years made a specialty of these precious stones. This firm made up a valuable collection for the Franco-British Exhibition in 1908, and sent an expert in charge, and for six months the eyes of London were dazzled by the beautiful display, and public attention was directed to this State. Many of the stones found buyers at satisfactory prices. Major Sankey, the firm's representative at the Exhibition, received four Royal commands to Buckingham Palace to show the exhibits.



TOWN OF SPRINGSURE.



THE STAIRCASES, ORION DOWNS ROAD, SPRINGSURE DISTRICT.



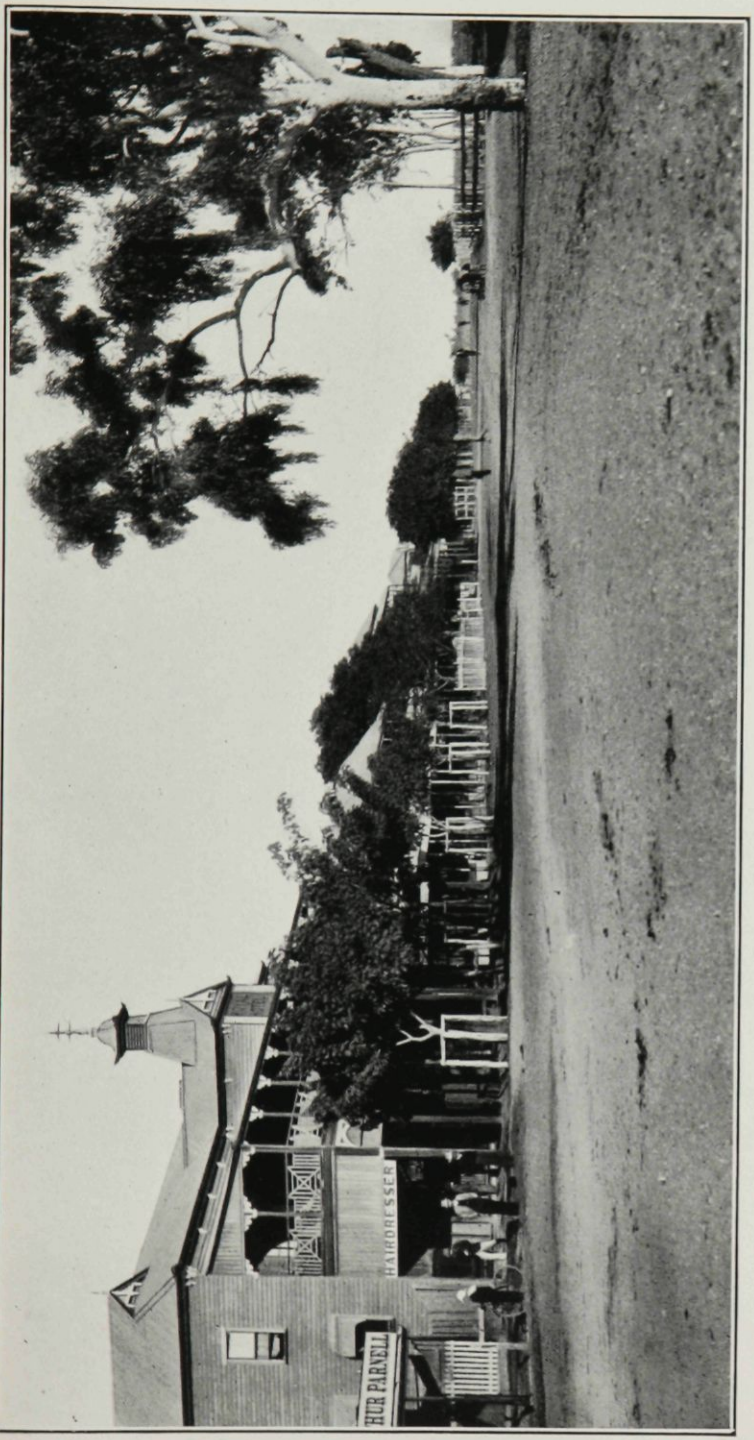
NATURAL ARCHWAY, PINNACLE MOUNTAIN, NEAR SPRINGSURE.

Springsure

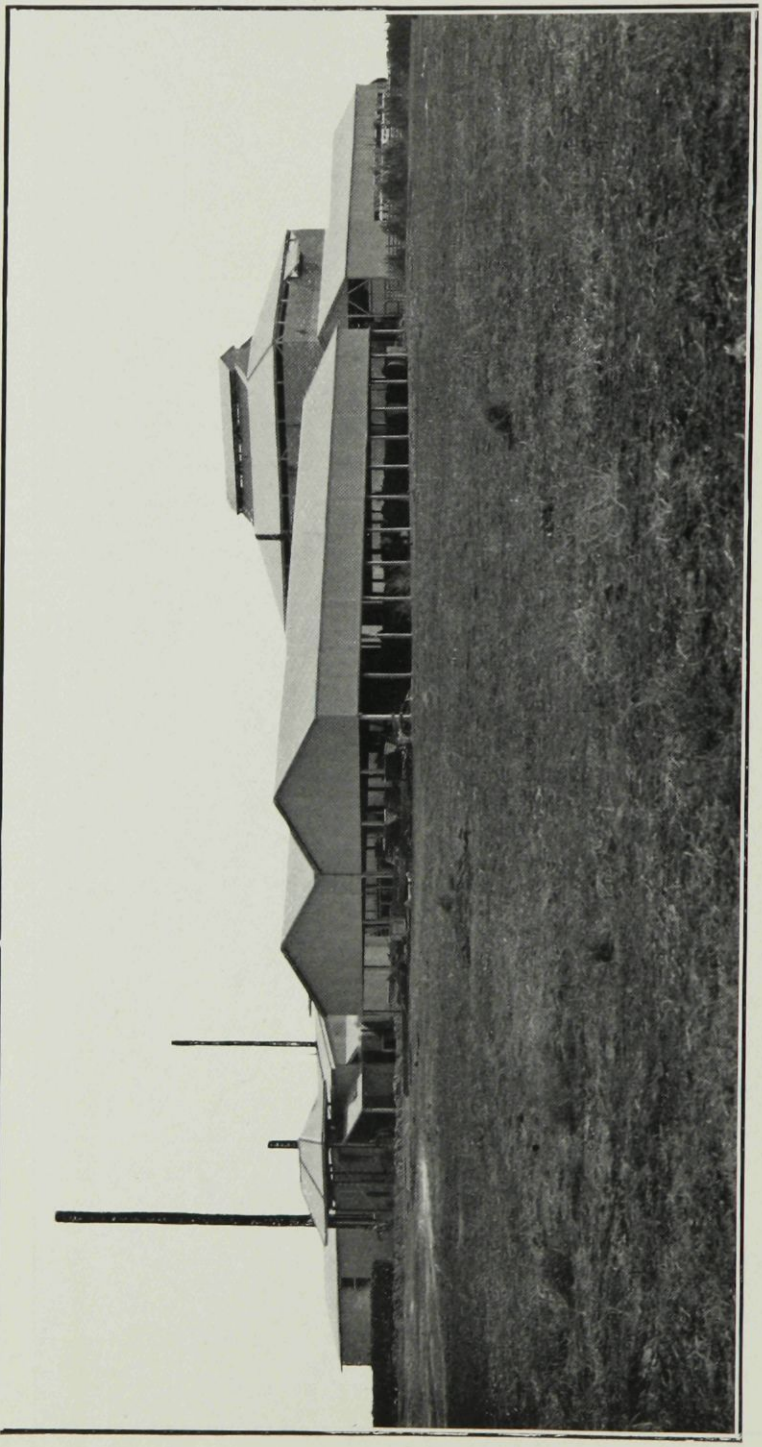
This, the most picturesque township in the Central District, is at the terminus of a branch line, 205 miles from Rockhampton, and 41 miles from the main Western line at Emerald. The district is purely pastoral, having a number of large runs, notably Orion Downs, Meteor Downs, Marmadilla, Wealwandangie, Arcturus Downs, Albina Downs, Rainworth, and Cullinlaringo. In pre-railway days Springsure was on the main Western road, and was an important place, as it was always well watered and grassed, but when the Western Railway was constructed *viâ* Emerald, Springsure was side-tracked for a while, but now that it is connected by railway with the Central system its natural advantages are bound to bring it to the front. As will be seen by the illustrations, there are some very picturesque mountains around the town, besides other spots that will well repay the tourist. The natural peculiarity known as the "Staircases" is 11 miles distant, on the Orion Downs road. The formation is sandstone, which has evidently in some convulsion of nature been thrown up on end, and the weather has done the rest. During wet weather the effect of the water running down the steps is very pretty. The Pinnacle Mountain, 5 miles from Springsure, is composed of rotten conglomerate, and the Natural Arch, on the north-east side, is very interesting. Many days may be spent in visiting the stations above mentioned, where visitors are assured a welcome and unbounded hospitality.

The Pastoral Industry in the Central District

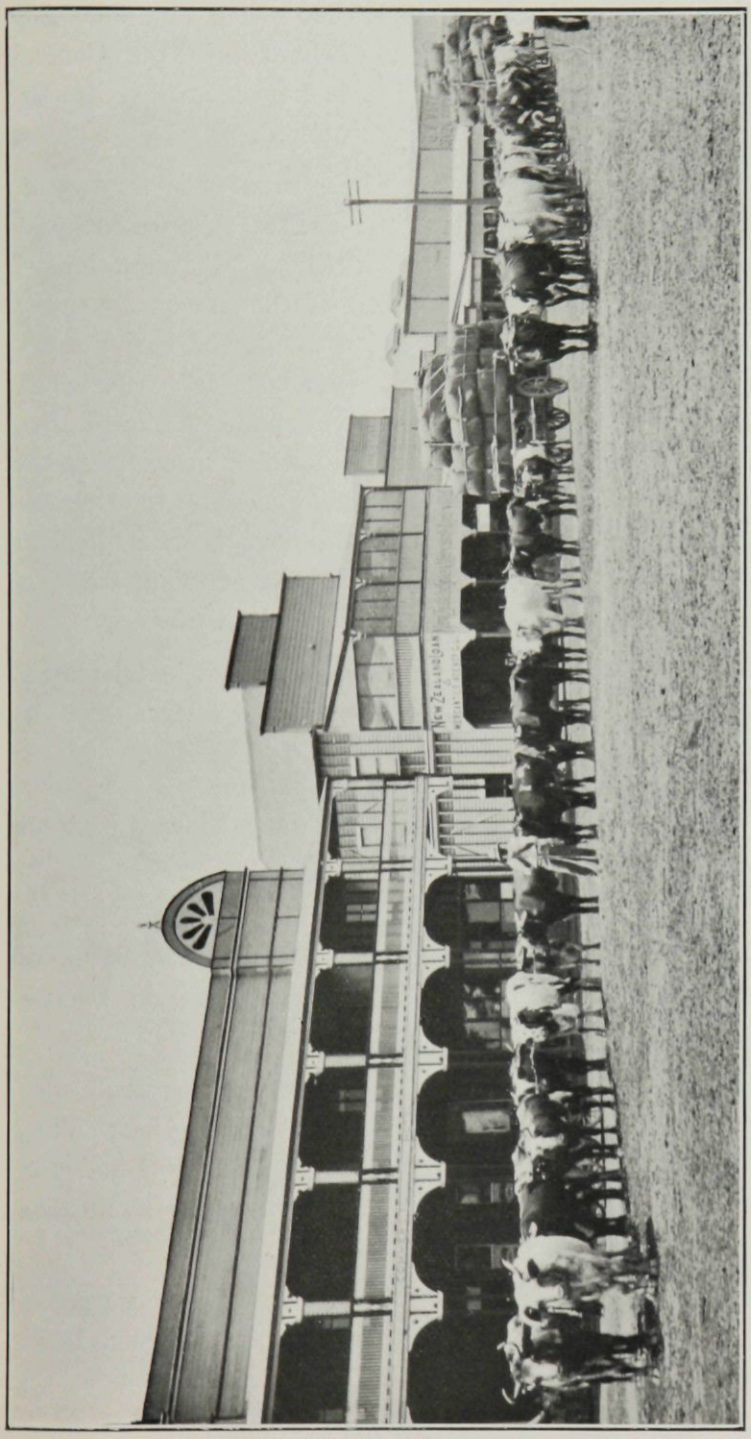
From Rockhampton, on the east, to the South Australian border, on the west, is a long cry—upwards of 900 miles, and this is a vast pastoral district, divided into sheep and cattle runs, some of very large extent. The value of this industry to the State is inestimable. It is



MAIN STREET, BARCALDINE.



WOOL SCOUR, WESTBOURNE.



BULLOCK TEAMS ARRIVING AT LONGREACH WITH WOOL.

estimated that there are 10,000,000 sheep and 2,000,000 cattle, with a large number of horses, in the Central District, although during what is known as the drought years considerable losses were suffered.

The recuperative nature of the country is very great, and it is estimated that at the end of the present year these numbers will be exceeded. One of the most important factors in the advancement of the Western country has been the discovery of artesian water, and to-day every station in the artesian area has its bore or bores, which are diverted through the different paddocks in drains, forming miniature watercourses, in which grow bulrushes and other water plants, thus enabling graziers to stock the country in a manner that would have been impossible some years ago. The depth at which artesian water is struck and the temperature of the water varies.

Most of the large pastoral holdings are in telephonic communication with the nearest post and telegraph office.

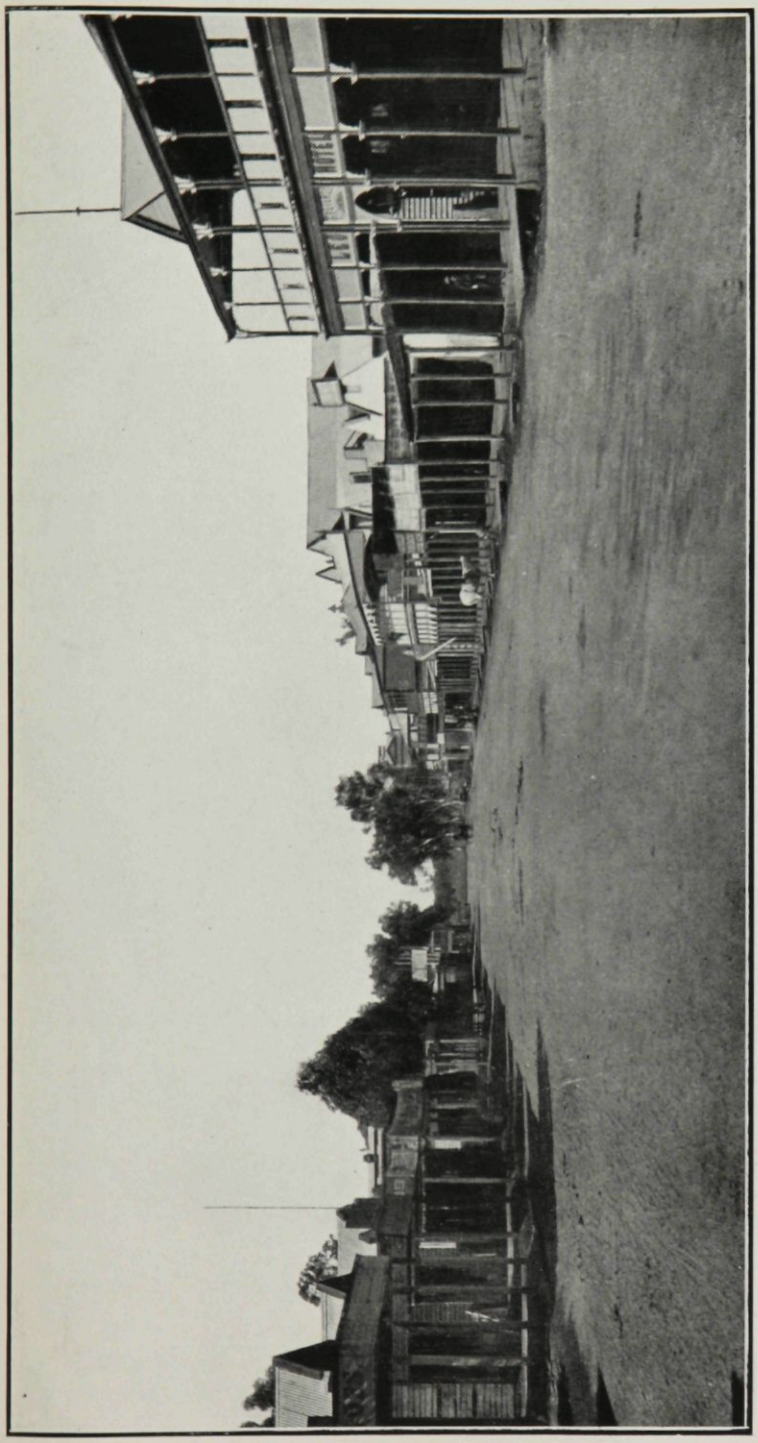
Peak Downs, Central Railway

The Peak Downs is one of the most famous pastoral districts in Australia.

The railway line junctions the Main Central-Western line at Emerald, and extends to Blair Athol, 74 miles from the former town, going through Emerald Downs, Gordon Downs, Retro, and Prairie stations.

In the vicinity are the following pastoral properties:—Malvern Downs, Malvern Hills, Peak Vale, Peak Downs, Wolfang, Evesham, Logan Downs, Bundoora, Huntley Downs, Cotherstone, Glenmore, Monteagle, Booroondarra, Pioneer, and Banchory.

Leichhardt's famous expedition in 1845 is suggested by such names as Expedition Peak, Charley's Peak, Roper's Peak, and Gilbert's Dome and Creek.



MAIN STREET, CLERMONT.

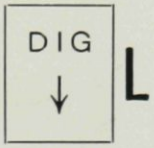


LEICHHARDT'S

Leichhardt's Tree, at the junction of the Comet and Nogoa Rivers, is a giant Coolibah, and cut in the solid wood is the word DIG.

The tree was seen by the Hon. A. C. Gregory, in his exploration trip from North Australia to Brisbane, on 17th November, 1856, and the following is an extract from his journal:—

"Just below the junction of the Comet we found the remains of a camp of Dr. Leichhardt's party on its second journey. The ashes of the fire were still visible, and a quantity of bones of goats were scattered around. A large tree was marked thus:



but a hollow in the ground at the foot of the tree showed that whatever had been deposited had long since been removed. We, however, cleared out the loose earth, but found nothing."

The broad-arrow has been obliterated and the L overgrown by bark.

ANTHONY JAMES CUMMING, Government Printer, Brisbane.

JOHN OXLEY LIBRARY
RAILWAY TOURS OF CENTRAL
QUEENSLAND

M05020760520021